

House Republican Alliance Recommendation Sheet

“TRUST BUT VERIFY”

The purpose of the House Republican Alliance is to preserve and strengthen the traditional principles and values of the Republican Party through the NH House of Representatives and throughout the state of NH, including fiscal restraint, personal freedom and responsibility, small government, free enterprise and strong families. We offer the following recommendations based on those principles, the Republican Party Platform and the NH and Federal Constitutions.



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11

REGULAR CALENDAR

FINANCE

HB1-A, making appropriations for the expenses of certain departments of the state for fiscal years ending June 30, 2008 and June 30, 2009. **MAJORITY: OTP W/AMENDMENT. MINORITY: ITL. 15-10.**

The NHGOP Platform states that Republicans “believe that controlling spending and minimizing taxes are the best ways to protect the economic and civic well being of New Hampshire residents. We reject higher taxes and excessive government spending with the belief that taxes unfairly erode earnings, contribute to the growth of government and provide disincentives for economic growth.” The budget is inflated and unbalanced.

Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A, then Support ITL.

HB 2-FN-A, relative to state fees, funds, revenues, and expenditures. **MAJORITY: OTP W/AMENDMENT. MINORITY: ITL. Vote 15-10.**

The NHGOP Platform states that Republicans “believe that controlling spending and minimizing taxes are the best ways to protect the economic and civic well being of New Hampshire residents. We reject higher taxes and excessive government spending with the belief that taxes unfairly erode earnings, contribute to the growth of government and provide disincentives for economic growth.” The increases in taxes and fees will damage the NH Advantage and severely impact our citizens.

Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A, then Support ITL.

HB 43, relative to the procedure for establishing medicaid reimbursement rates. **OTP W/ AMENDMENT. Vote 18-6.**

This bill would make health care even less affordable. It increases costs to the state Medicaid program. It also gives hospital owned physicians a financial advantage that private physicians are not allowed, to the detriment of the general public.

Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A, Then Support ITL

HB 407-FN-A, relative to assistance for milk producers. **OTP W/ AMENDMENT. . Vote 22-0.**

Allowing the free market to determine the economic viability of an enterprise has been a cornerstone of Republican economic policy. This is an effort by government to bail out a specific industry. That being said, the industry finds itself in this situation due to government interference. In addition, this specific industry has a positive cultural and environmental impact on the state that makes it unique. The NH GOP Platform “promote(s) preserving open space, scenic vistas and historic and cultural landscapes.” Thus conflicting arguments can be made. Vote your conscience.

No Recommendation.

HB 488-FN-A-L, relative to the state chief medical examiner and medico-legal death investigations. **OTP W/ AMENDMENT. Vote 23-0.**

The state will conduct all autopsies and medical examinations and county governments will be removed from this responsibility, and all costs borne by the counties for autopsies and medical investigations. This has been a thorn in the sides of the county for a long time and this will take away an expense FROM our county budgets. This will improve efficiency in government.

Recommendation: Support OTP/A.

HB 498-FN-A, dedicating certain OHRV and snowmobile un-refunded road tolls to the fish and game department. **OTP W/ AMENDMENT. Vote 23-0.**

This bill is unconstitutional, violating Part 2, Article 6a. The constitution makes no provision for un-refunded road toll revenues. “no part of such revenues shall, by transfer of funds or otherwise, be diverted to any other purpose whatsoever.” The fact that we have violated the constitution in the past does not justify it now.

Recommendation: Oppose OTP W/Amendment, Support ITL

HB 661-FN-A, establishing an executive planning commission on special education. **OTP. Vote 22-0.**

The New Hampshire Republican Party Platform strongly supports the principle of open government. This bill is using the establishment of a commission to camouflage changes to existing law. The majority has also failed to adequately address the concerns that this bill could violate federal requirements.

Recommendation: Oppose OTP, then Support ITL

HB 663-FN-A, relative to the comprehensive shore land protection act and making an appropriation therefor. **OTP W/ AMENDMENT. Vote 20-0.**

No Recommendation

HB 721, relative to the appropriation to the department of health and human services for rates paid for nursing services. **OTP W/ AMENDMENT. Vote 21-1.**

No Recommendation

HB 790-FN, relative to dependent coverage for health insurance and establishing the joint legislative oversight committee on insurance expansion initiatives. **OTP. Vote 15-8.**

The NHGOP Platform believes in “creating a supportive business climate.” The Platform also “support(s) efforts to draw insurance companies back to New Hampshire” and “support(s) increased use of market forces to provide and improve health care.” This bill represents an insurance coverage mandate that will add significant cost exposure to the business community.

Recommendation: Oppose OTP, then Support ITL.

JUDICIARY

HB 796, relative to civil liability for damaging highway protective barriers. **OTP W/ AMENDMENT. Vote 11-4.**

This bill expands the ability of the State of New Hampshire and municipalities to recover for damages to highways and protective barriers caused by motorists and other persons; a reasonable exercise of governmental power.

Recommendation: Support OTP/A

PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

HB 25-FN-A, making appropriations for capital improvements. **OTP W/ AMENDMENT. Vote 19-0.**

This budget contains the bonding of \$60million for replacement and maintenance for the state’s highway and bridge infrastructure. This has always been an operating expense. To treat it otherwise is deficit spending at its worst.

Recommendation: Oppose OTP/A and Support ITL.

WAYS AND MEANS

HB 472-FN, increasing fees for hazardous waste management and contaminated site cleanup and changing reporting requirements. **OTP. Vote 15-0.**

Fees are supposed to represent the cost of providing the service rendered, i.e., the cost of processing applications. This bill would increase the amount of one application from \$5000 to \$7500! The platform “reject(s) higher taxes and excessive government spending.” In addition, the platform “promotes a limited government that is open, responsive and fully accountable.” The use of fees versus general fund expenditures makes government less accountable to the people for their expenditures.

Recommendation: Oppose OTP, then Support ITL

HB 599-FN, relative to fees for meals and rentals licenses. **OTP. Vote 14-0.**

It is axiomatic that taxes should be distributed fairly among those taxed. A corollary is effective collection. This bill appears to increase government efficiency in collecting meals and rental taxes while at the same time going to great lengths to limit costs and inconvenience to business owners.

Recommendation: Support OTP

HB 664-FN, relative to annual dam registration and permit application fees. **OTP. Vote 12-3.**

A primary function of government is affording protection for its citizens. As certain dams have the potential to cause great harm, the state has the obligation to ensure they are safe. It is also reasonable that the owners of these dams who benefit from their existence, not the taxpayers, bear the costs associated with providing that insurance.

Recommendation: Support OTP

HB 815-FN-A, requiring the display of boater education decals on vessels registered in other states. **OTP. Vote 9-6.**

This bill uses a new fee to fund several state programs with a broad nexus to boating. The dictionary describes a user fee as “an excise tax often in the form of a license or supplemental charge levied to fund a public service.” The platform “reject(s) higher taxes and excessive government spending.” In addition, the platform “promotes a limited government that is open, responsive and fully accountable.” The use of fees versus general fund expenditures makes government less accountable to the people for their expenditures.

Recommendation: Oppose OTP, then Support ITL